

59 West Queen Street (House)
Chambersburg
Franklin County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5156

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PA
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3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

59 WEST QUEEN STREET
(House)

HABS No. PA-5156

- Location: 59 West Queen Street, Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.
- Present Use: Demolished November 1980 due to Urban Development Action Grant program. (This documentation was prepared before the demolition).
- Significance: This residential structure exhibits a local version of a Downing Villa with decorative gable-end bargeboards, which is in marked contrast to the sequence of brick rowhouses which describe the other communities of Chambersburg. In addition, the unaltered sequences of brackets, modillion and lattice work make this an important structure for local understanding of decorations, especially since some of other buildings of this type have been stripped of their embellishments.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1868. The date is based on the burning of this property in 1864 during the Confederate raid and its presence on the atlas sheet of Chambersburg dated 1872. The style and the interior woodwork of this structure support this date.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is a list of past property owners for this property. Source of these records is Franklin County Courthouse, Recorder of Deeds Office, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.
 - 1857 Deed, Date of Death of George A. Grove, died owning property and left no will.
 - 1868 Deed, March 1, 1868, recorded in Volume 44, Page 71. Heirs of George A. Grove, deceased, to Thaddeus M. Mahon.
 - 1869 Deed, November 2, 1869, recorded in Volume 46, Page 421. Thaddeus M. Mahon and Martha M., his wife, to Thomas A. Scott
 - 1880 Deed, April 1, 1880, recorded in Will Book Volume I, Page 279. Will of Thomas A. Scott to Margaretta King.
 - 1889 Deed, April 1, 1889, recorded in Volume 83, Page 414. Margaretta King to A. B. Stoler

- 1892 Deed, April 4, 1892, recorded in Volume 94, Page 497.
A. B. Stoler and Mary A., his wife, to William R. Keefer
(Date of Death March 9, 1912)
- 1912 Deed, March 19, 1912, recorded in Will Book Volume T,
Page 576. Will of William R. Keefer to Alice B. Keefer.
- 1912 Deed, October 23, 1912, recorded in Volume 168, Page 235.
Alice B. Keefer to J. Carl Shull.
- 1921 Deed, April 1, 1921, recorded in Volume 203, Page 64.
J. Carl Shull to A. B. Hess.
- 1923 Deed, May 3, 1923, recorded in Volume 212, Page 90.
A. B. Hess and Gertrude B., his wife, to W. Owen Zacharias
and Virginia Mayor, his wife.
- 1940 Deed, October 10, 1940, recorded in Volume 285, Page 108.
W. Owen Zacharias and Virginia Mayo, his wife, to Farmers
and Merchants Trust Company of Chambersburg.
- 1941 Deed, October 31, 1941, recorded in Volume 294, Page 318.
Farmers and Merchants Trust Company of Chambersburg to
Ethel Smiley Ogle (Date of Death January 9, 1948).
- 1948 Deed, January 13, 1948, Will Book Volume 43, Page 346.
Will of Ethel Smiley Ogle to E. Elizabeth Ogle Eyer
(also known as Betty Ogle Eyer).

1980 Borough of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The original block of the house has a familiar rectangular plan and a gable roof. These features constitute common architectural plans for many residential structures and farmhouses of the 19th century. Typical Victorian two-over-two double-hung sash windows are still in place.
2. Condition of fabric: Many elements of the architectural fabric of the building have been recently destroyed due to vandalization and little remains other than the strongest of the structural elements and fragments of the non-vandalized woodwork.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main house and the addition on the north side measure 60' (five bays) x 15' (two bays).

2. Foundations: Coursed rubble limestone.
3. Walls: Common bonded five-course header which has been painted white.
4. Structural system, framing: Exterior brick walls with interior wood framing.
5. Porches: There is a continuous first floor porch on the south and east (front) elevations of the structure with the east facing porch being surmounted by a balcony which is roofed by the main gable roof. Scroll work and simple brackets mounted on square posts along with a modillion cornice mark the combination of porch and balcony.
6. Chimneys: There are three chimneys. A large flued mass is on the west wall and another one is on the north wall of the main house block. A smaller flue mass is in the northwest corner of the rear wing. The two large masses operated fireplaces which warmed the living room, dining room, and two bedrooms in the main house block, whereas the rear wing flue operated a coal stove. At the present, the large mass which flued the dining room and master bedroom combination has been disassembled at the roof line, thus giving the building the appearance of having two flue systems.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The doors are of the four-panel type with applied moldings and a slightly raised panel. Both the main door and the second floor porch door have transoms. Two ground floor doors on the addition also have transoms. The frames are solid wood frames with a 3/8's bead applied to the outer edges. The inside of these frames are cased with various late-Victorian moldings.
 - b. Windows and shutters: The windows on the main house block are of the weight operated variety with two-over-two sash, whereas the windows in the rear portion are made up of six-over-one sash and are non-weighted and mechanically operated double-hungs. In the case of the solid frames in the rear of the buildings, a simple half-inch bead marks the inter edges of these frames on the outside. In the front of the house, the weighted window openings, which are extremely large, have exterior casings. These casings consist of a combination of bow nose and flat section acting as an exterior edge. The windows were all originally shuttered with two paneled movable louvers marking the second floor and two panel solid shutters with a slight raised panel were in place on the first floor. The shutters have since been removed and an example was found in the attic.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with a ridge pole and slate shingles covers the main house. The addition has a flat roof.
- b. Cornice: The cornice is of a simple box variety. The south side porch roof has supporting brackets and modillions.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The first floor plan consists of a central hall with a flanking room on either side. Living room is on the left side and the dining room is on the right side.

The addition to the north of the house has two rooms. One room on the right side serves as the kitchen. The other room, whose purpose is unknown, has an access to the dining room. See Supplemental Material, Sources of Information Section, for a sketched plan of the first floor.

- b. Second floor: Same first floor plan is used on the second floor plan for both the main house and the addition. Three of the four rooms are used as bedrooms. A portion of the balcony on the east (front) side of the house is used as a bathroom. See Supplemental Material, Sources of Information Section, for a sketched floor plan of the second floor.

2. Stairways: The main staircase in the rear side of the hall extends through to the attic in a sequence of two dog-legged stairs with yellow pine tread, turned balusters, walnut handrail, and a turned walnut newel post. The casing is a simple open type with no embellishments.
3. Flooring: 6" tongue-and-groove pine flooring is used throughout the house. The hallway and dining room floors are covered with 2" face oak and inlaid with strips of cherry. In the remaining portion of the house, the floor has been either painted or in one case recently sanded and naturally finished.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are finished plaster on machine cut lathe with a single brown coat and two finished coats. A combination of 20th century wallpaper and paint is randomly distributed throughout the structure.

5. Openings:

- a. Doors: The doors are of painted four-panel type with applied moldings. The door hardware is cast-iron carpenter's locks with porcelain knobs. The hinges are a cast-iron fixed pin swivel type.
- b. Windows: The windows in the south portion of the house have wooden reveals and late Victorian casings surrounding the opening with a full sill and a stool which matches the casing. Windows on the front side of the house also have interior casings with a Victorian molding.

6. Decorative features and trim: The baseboards are 8" painted soft wood with a half-inch bead on the top edge. Different casing designs are used throughout the house. There is a large china cupboard built into the dining room. There are also two large built-in cupboards in each of the two bedrooms. Marbleized mantels that graced the first floor are now gone. Wooden mantels, however, are still intact in the second floor.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: Oil-fired circulating hot water unit with cast-iron radiators.
- b. Lighting: 60 amp 220 lighting service.
- c. Plumbing: Cast-iron and copper.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The structure is aligned in a north-south fashion with the street facing gable end running from east to west. The building is presently surrounded on the west side and the east side by public parking lot. Originally, however, it was part of a general residential streetscape characterized by two and three story late-Victorian structures.
2. Outbuilding: A small brick outhouse exists on the west property line of the structure approximately 15 feet to the rear of the building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

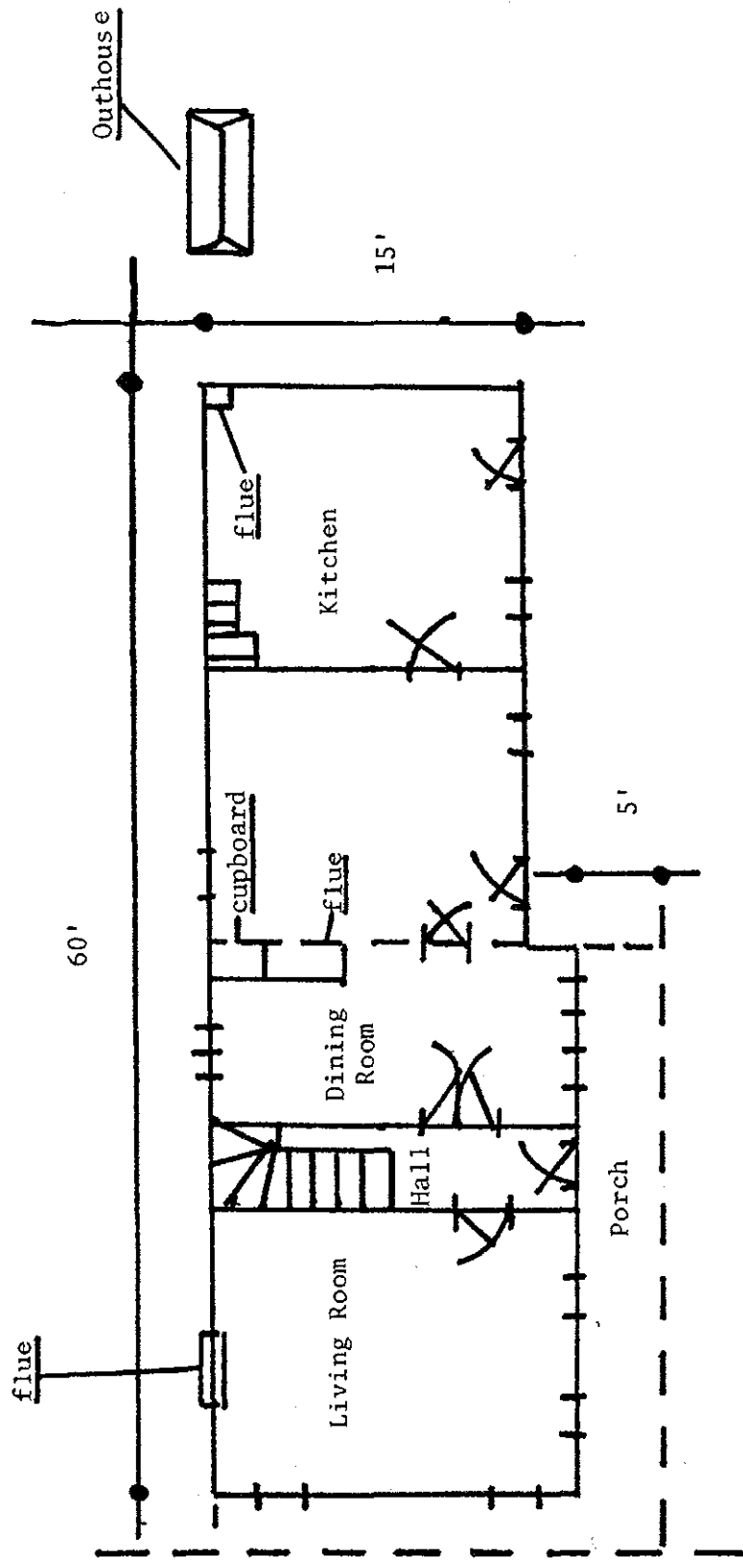
A. Bibliography:

Property abstracts, Franklin County Courthouse, Recorder of Deeds Office, 1 North Main Street, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

B. Supplemental Material: See attached sheets.

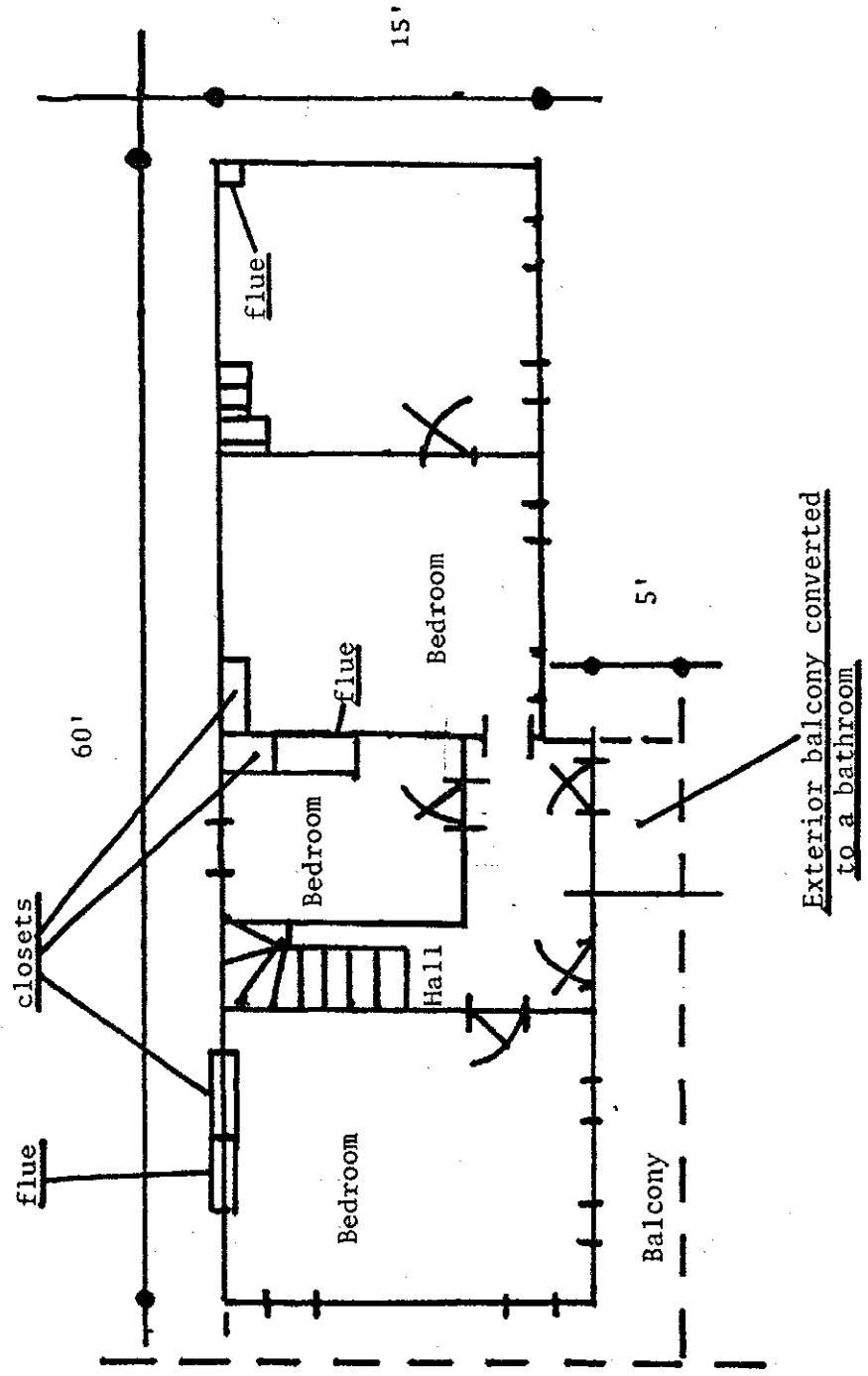


FIRST FLOOR PLAN OF 59 WEST QUEEN STREET (HOUSE)
CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA-- DEMOLISHED NOVEMBER 1980





SECOND FLOOR PLAN OF 59 WEST QUEEN STREET (HOUSE)
CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA-- DEMOLISHED NOVEMBER 1980



PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The documentation was the result of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Borough of Chambersburg, the State of Pennsylvania and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the Urban Development Action Grant plan for revitalization of the Borough of Chambersburg. John R. Schein of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania prepared the written documentation and also took the photographs. Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington, D.C. office, edited the documentation in the Winter of 1982, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. John A. Burns, AIA, was the HABS project co-ordinator.